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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

CONTACT: SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS 316-660-9370 FAX: 316-383-7509

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Contact: Kristi Zukovich
316-660-9370

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bacterial Meningitis Case Confirmed in Sedgwick County

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) –The Sedgwick County Health Department is investigating one confirmed case of meningococcal meningitis. Investigators are following infectious disease protocols to identify and interview all contacts with the diagnosed patient.

Only those who have had close contact with the confirmed case will be prescribed preventive antibiotics. Close contacts include family members, daycare co-enrollees, social contacts close enough to have shared eating/drinking utensils, and military personnel or correctional inmates sharing a common sleeping place.

Health care personnel caring for a case are not considered close contacts **unless** they had contact with respiratory secretion, which might occur giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

It is highly recommended that students living in dorms or in close quarters with others receive the meningococcal vaccine, which can be obtained from the Sedgwick County Health Department for \$90. Some local physicians also have the vaccine.

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"We encourage those who live in close quarters with others to get the meningitis vaccine," said Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Tom Winters. "We want to make sure that the citizens of Sedgwick County take the necessary precautions to keep themselves and those around them healthy."

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